



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

March 17, 2023

MR. NOAH SCHEER



FOIPA Request No.: 1571989-000
Subject: STEINMETZ, HARRY CHARLES

Dear Mr. Scheer:

The FBI has completed its review of records subject to the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) that are responsive to your request. The enclosed documents were reviewed under the FOIPA, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Below you will find check boxes under the appropriate statute headings which indicate the types of exemptions asserted to protect information which is exempt from disclosure. The appropriate exemptions are noted on the enclosed pages next to redacted information. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted to indicate where pages were withheld entirely and identify which exemptions were applied. The checked exemption boxes used to withhold information are further explained in the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions.

Section 552

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(2)

☒ (b)(3)

50 USC § 3024 (i)(1)

☐ (b)(4)

☐ (b)(5)

☒ (b)(6)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☒ (b)(7)(C)

☒ (b)(7)(D)

☒ (b)(7)(E)

☐ (b)(7)(F)

☐ (b)(8)

☐ (b)(9)

Section 552a

☐ (d)(5)

☐ (j)(2)

☐ (k)(1)

☐ (k)(2)

☐ (k)(3)

☐ (k)(4)

☐ (k)(5)

☐ (k)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

16 pages were reviewed and 16 pages are being released.

Please see the paragraphs below for relevant information specific to your request as well as the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for standard responses applicable to all requests.

Based on the information you provided, we conducted a main and reference entity record search of the Central Records System (CRS) per our standard search policy. For more information about records searches and the standard search policy, see the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum General Information Section.

This is the **final release** of information responsive to your FOIPA request. This material is being provided to you at no charge.

Records that may have been responsive to your request were destroyed. Since this material could not be reviewed, it is not known if it was responsive to your request. Record retention and disposal is carried out under supervision of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Title 44, United States Code, Section 3301 as implemented by Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1228; Title 44, United States Code, Section 3310 as implemented by Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1229.10.

A record that may be responsive to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request has been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). If you wish to review these records, submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to NARA, Special Access and FOIA, 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 5500, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Please reference the file number 100-HQ-35781 and 100-HQ-16635.

Please refer to the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for additional standard responses applicable to your request. **"Part 1"** of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. **"Part 2"** includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records about yourself or any third party individuals. **"Part 3"** includes general information about FBI records that you may find useful. Also enclosed is our Explanation of Exemptions.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request.

If you are not satisfied with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIP's website: <https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by emailing the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison at foipaquestions@fbi.gov. The subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Seidel
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Information Management Division

Enclosure(s)

FBI FOIPA Addendum

As referenced in our letter responding to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, the FBI FOIPA Addendum provides information applicable to your request. Part 1 of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. Part 2 includes standard responses that apply to requests for records about individuals to the extent your request seeks the listed information. Part 3 includes general information about FBI records, searches, and programs.

Part 1: The standard responses below apply to all requests:

- (i) **5 U.S.C. § 552(c).** Congress excluded three categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIPA [5 U.S.C. § 552(c)]. FBI responses are limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIPA. Additional information about the FBI and the FOIPA can be found on the www.fbi.gov/foia website.
- (ii) **Intelligence Records.** To the extent your request seeks records of intelligence sources, methods, or activities, the FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and as applicable to requests for records about individuals, PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(1), (b)(3), and (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself a classified fact protected by FOIA exemption (b)(1) and/or would reveal intelligence sources, methods, or activities protected by exemption (b)(3) [50 USC § 3024(i)(1)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that any such records do or do not exist.

Part 2: The standard responses below apply to all requests for records on individuals:

- (i) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Watch Lists.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any individual's name on a watch list pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that watch list records do or do not exist.
- (ii) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Witness Security Program Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could identify any participant in the Witness Security Program pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(3), 18 U.S.C. 3521, and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.
- (iii) **Requests for Confidential Informant Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of confidential informant records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), and (b)(7)(F) [5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), and (b)(7)(F)] and Privacy Act exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. § 552a (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records would reveal confidential informant identities and information, expose law enforcement techniques, and endanger the life or physical safety of individuals. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

Part 3: General Information:

- (i) **Record Searches and Standard Search Policy.** The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for reasonably described records by searching systems, such as the Central Records System (CRS), or locations where responsive records would reasonably be found. The CRS is an extensive system of records consisting of applicant, investigative, intelligence, personnel, administrative, and general files compiled by the FBI per its law enforcement, intelligence, and administrative functions. The CRS spans the entire FBI organization, comprising records of FBI Headquarters, FBI Field Offices, and FBI Legal Attaché Offices (Legats) worldwide; Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records are included in the CRS. The standard search policy is a search for main entity records in the CRS. Unless specifically requested, a standard search does not include a search for reference entity records, administrative records of previous FOIPA requests, or civil litigation files.
 - a. *Main Entity Records* – created for individuals or non-individuals who are the subjects or the focus of an investigation
 - b. *Reference Entity Records*- created for individuals or non-individuals who are associated with a case but are not known subjects or the focus of an investigation
- (ii) **FBI Records.** Founded in 1908, the FBI carries out a dual law enforcement and national security mission. As part of this dual mission, the FBI creates and maintains records on various subjects; however, the FBI does not maintain records on every person, subject, or entity.
- (iii) **Foreseeable Harm Standard.** As amended in 2016, the Freedom of Information Act provides that a federal agency may withhold responsive records only if: (1) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one of the nine exemptions that FOIA enumerates, or (2) disclosure is prohibited by law (5 United States Code, Section 552(a)(8)(A)(i)). The FBI considers this foreseeable harm standard in the processing of its requests.
- (iv) **Requests for Criminal History Records or Rap Sheets.** The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides Identity History Summary Checks – often referred to as a criminal history record or rap sheet. These criminal history records are not the same as material in an investigative “FBI file.” An Identity History Summary Check is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. For a fee, individuals can request a copy of their Identity History Summary Check. Forms and directions can be accessed at www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks. Additionally, requests can be submitted electronically at www.edo.cjis.gov. For additional information, please contact CJIS directly at (304) 625-5590.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FBI

Date: 3/24/77

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Precedence)

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Fin. & Pers. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Intell. _____
Legal Coun. _____
Plan. & Insp. _____
Rec. Mgt. _____
S. & T. Serv. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director's Sec'y _____

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (P)
SUBJECT: UNSUBS;

OO: San Francisco
PRELIMINARY INQUIRY
(INITIATED 3/24/77)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S) OF Classification
DATE 3/8/78

This document has been classified
~~Secret~~ to protect a highly sensitive
source, namely _____, the source
some of the data set forth below.

Unsubs had been observed arriving
in a City Cab numbered 1202.

Unsubs were described as follows: (U) 7 APR 12 1977

Unsub #1 is a male, 55-65 years, 5'11", 190
pounds, large build, gray hair, medium complexion, wearing
a tan cord coat, blue pants, and glasses. (U)

~~CLASS UPHELD~~
~~BY 6616~~
~~3-6-78~~

~~SECRET~~
Classified by 1767
Exempt from GDS, Categories 2 &
Date of Declassification: Indefinite

- 2 - Bureau (RM)
- 3 - San Francisco

Approved: _____

55 APR 28 1977

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

~~Confidential~~

~~Confidential~~

~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Unsub #2 was a female, 55-65 years, 5'5", 140 pounds, heavy build, gray hair, medium complexion, wearing a black coat, black dress, and glasses. (U)

Unsubs remained [REDACTED] until 10:34 A.M., when they emerged and were observed leaving the area in [REDACTED]

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The identity of the [REDACTED] making the above mentioned observations will be maintained [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ~~(S)~~ (U)

Above mentioned source indicated that an unknown male and female had requested that [REDACTED] Source further advised that Unsub male actually requested that [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ~~(S)~~ (U)
Following their exit from [REDACTED] Unsubs were observed by [REDACTED] driving from the area in [REDACTED] which they indicated was driven by a Negro male. The cab was last observed heading towards the [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ~~(S)~~ (U)

IN THE EVENT THE INFORMATION SET FORTH ABOVE FROM [REDACTED] IS PREPARED IN A FORM SUITABLE FOR DISSEMINATION, IT SHOULD BE CAREFULLY PARAPHRASED TO PROTECT THE HIGHLY SENSITIVE SOURCE INVOLVED.

Investigation in this matter has been initiated in accordance with instructions set forth in SAC Letter 66-20D and [REDACTED] Manual of Instructions. (U)

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~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

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FBI

Date: 5/20/77

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO [REDACTED] (P)

SUBJECT: CHANGED
HARRY CHARLES STEINMETZ;
UNKNOWN FEMALE TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED
AS MRS. DORIS L. STEINMETZ
[REDACTED] (U)
PTI 3/24/77

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Title marked "Changed" to show identity of Subject
#1 as determined through photo comparison. Title was formerly
carried as "UNSUBS; Occupants of City Cab [REDACTED]"

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Re San Francisco airtel to Bureau, 3/24/77.

For information of San Diego, Subject STEINMETZ
visited [REDACTED]
On 3/21/77, he was observed talking [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] area approximately [REDACTED]

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APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S) OF *Classification*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by 1767
Exempt from GDS, Category 3
DATE 3/8/78 Date of Declassification: Indefinite

- 2 - Bureau (RM)
3 - San Diego (Enc. 1) (RM)
(2 - 100-906)
(1 - 100-18592)
4 - San Francisco
(1 - [REDACTED])
(1 - [REDACTED])

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CLASS UPHELD
BY 6045

MAY 25 1977

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Approved: [REDACTED]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

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INTELLIGENCE DIV.

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[redacted]
ten minutes after his arrival, in [redacted] car. On 3/22/77, STEINMETZ and an unknown female, tentatively identified as his wife, DORIS, again visited [redacted] arriving and leaving via taxi. ~~(S)~~ (U)

It is not known where STEINMETZ and Unfem were lodged during their stay in San Francisco. They were picked up, however, by a local taxi in the Union Square area (information received from [redacted] San Francisco -- PROTECT IDENTITY) on 3/22/77. A check of the records of the Hyatt Union Square Hotel revealed no registry regarding STEINMETZ. u

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San Diego is requested to compare enclosed photograph of unknown female who accompanied STEINMETZ and advise San Francisco whether she is identical with DORIS L. STEIMETZ. u

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~~Confidential~~

JUN 6 1972

~~Confidential~~

GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-16635)

DATE: 7/15/77

FROM : SAC, SAN DIEGO (100-906) (C) (U)

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SUBJECT: CHANGED
HARRY CHARLES STEINMETZ;
DORIS LAUGHLIN STEINMETZ, aka

(PII 3/24/77)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY SLIP (S) OF
DATE 3/8/78

Title marked "Changed" to show identity of female pictured in photograph provided San Diego as enclosure to referenced airtel. Title previously carried as "HARRY CHARLES STEINMETZ; Unknown Female Tentatively Identified as Mrs. DORIS L. STEINMETZ, () (C) (U)

Re San Francisco airtel to Bureau, 5/20/77.

Referenced communication enclosed photograph of unknown female who accompanied subject, HARRY CHARLES STEINMETZ, during his visit () San Francisco, California, on 3/22/77. (C) (U)

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On 6/29/77, () were shown this photograph and were unable to positively identify the individual pictured in this photograph as being identical with DORIS STEINMETZ, wife of HARRY CHARLES STEINMETZ. (C) (U)

On 6/30/77, () was shown the same photograph and advised that although picture somewhat resembles Mrs. STEINMETZ, Asset could not positively say that the individual in the photograph is, in fact, DORIS STEINMETZ. (C) (U)

The photograph of unknown female provided San Diego by San Francisco as described above has been compared with the only photograph of DORIS LAUGHLIN STEINMETZ available in San Diego files and these two individuals appear identical. (U)

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
(2) - 100-16635)
(1) - 100-425257)
4 - San Francisco (RM)

(2) - ()
(1) - ()
(1) - ()

2 - San Diego
() - 100-906)
() - 100-8022)



5010-110

(9)

Classified by 6002
Exempt from GDS, Categories 2 & 3
Date of Declassification Indefinite

REC 65

CLASS UPHELD
BY 6616
3-6-78

2 JUL 20 1977

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN b7D

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FOR

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INTELLIGENCE DIV.

ASSISTANT
ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20540

100-443888-100

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SD 100-906

For the information of San Francisco, HARRY CHARLES STEINMETZ is a long-time member of the CPUSA and has been affiliated locally with the San Diego Communist Party until approximately two years ago. Recently, STEINMETZ' known activities have been limited chiefly to participation in the San Diego Society for Cultural Relations With the Soviet Union (SDSCRSU), a group started by STEINMETZ and presently chaired by him. (U)

STEINMETZ' wife, DORIS LAUGHLIN STEINMETZ, Bufile 100-425257, has not been an active participant in the CPUSA and/or the SDSCRSU during the past several years. (U)

Inasmuch as captioned subjects are known to the San Diego Division and HARRY STEINMETZ' involvement in the SDSCRSU could logically explain his contact with [redacted] [redacted] in San Francisco, UACB, no further investigation regarding this matter is being conducted by San Diego. ~~(S)~~ (U)

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FBI

Date: 8/2/77

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Precedence)

DIRECTOR, FBI

SAC, SAN FRANCISCO

(S) (U)

SUBJECT: HARRY CHARLES STEINMETZ;
DORIS LAUGHLIN STEINMETZ aka
PII 3/24/77

Re San Francisco airtel dated 5/20/77, and San Diego letter dated 7/15/77.

Photograph of unknown female provided San Diego by San Francisco as described in referenced communications has been compared with the only photograph of DORIS LAUGHLIN STEINMETZ available in San Diego files and these two individuals appear identical. (U)

STEINMETZ, a long-time member of the CPUSA in the San Diego area, is presently Chairman of the San Diego Society for Cultural Relations with the Soviet Union (SDSCRSU). Mrs. STEINMETZ (Bufile 100-425257) has not been an active participant in the CPUSA or the SDSCRSU for the past several years. (U)

ST 104

REC-36

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY SLIP (2) OF
DATE 3/8/78

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by 1767
Exempt from GDS, Category 3
Date of Declassification: Indefinite

2 - Bureau (RM)
1 - San Francisco

(3)

CLASS UPHELD
BY 6616
3-6-78

AUG 5 1977

Approved: 300
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

AUG 18 1977

AUG 5 11 32 AM '77


INTELLIGENCE DIV.

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UACB, no further investigation is contemplated regarding this matter, as both Mr. and Mrs. STEINMETZ are known to San Diego and now San Francisco, and STEINMETZ' involvement in the SDSCRSU could logically explain his contact with  San Francisco. ~~(S)~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

4-13-77

[Redacted]

RECEIVED
INTELLIGENCE DIV.

MAR 27 12 45 PM '77